

Gentet, Matthias

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 November 2015 11:12
To: Planning
Subject: Application Ref: 2015/6455/P

I would like to express my concern over the planned 156 West End Lane proposed development.

On a number of levels I think it is incredibly short sighted and disturbing that the council wants to sell the land and build houses:

1) I understand that the council are required to sell the land to raise funds. Selling land is an appalling decision, as once the council runs out of money again what is the solution then? By increasing the population you will now have an even greater population to serve thus continuing to put pressure on services.

I also believe the funds are needed to build schools to meet the demands of the local population. Surely the logical decision would be to build a school on the site or some other service to serve the community. By building flats you are increasing the population of the area, thus putting more pressure on schools, health and other services. Therefore, building flats will not solve, but perpetuate, the problem of overpopulation.

We already have the monstrous West Hampstead Square. How can the area cope with more people. You are destroying the very reason why people move to the area; an area of relative peace and tranquility close to the city. If you keep building you will force out the residents who have and continue to be custodians of the area. As a council, you have a duty to act in the interests of residents. By increasing the pressure on services you are going to make us residents' lives increasingly miserable.

2) By removing Travis Perkins and Wickes, who provide unique and worthy services to the area, you are reducing the diversity of shops and importantly you are losing an important local employer in the area. Maybe you could just leave the site as it is?

3) Notwithstanding my objections to proposal in principle, the designs of the current proposal are concerning. The height of the proposed building will destroy the skyline. Furthermore, this will influence the amount of light which residents in the surrounding area will receive. Other issues, such as sound distortion would also be created by the development. The proposed road into the development will increase traffic in the area.

On an ideological level it is incomprehensible that you would want to encourage more people to live in an already overcrowded city, where health, police and school services are already overstretched. By increasing the number of people in the area we will have to wait even longer than the average 2 weeks, in my experience, for a GP. The area already struggles to provide for existing residents. The pavements and tube stations are already overcrowded. Surely there should be a focus on serving the existing population rather increasing it. One final point; if you go ahead with the development what will your solution be when the population keeps increasing and you have no more land to sell ... there is no solution apart from protecting your existing population.

My preference is to either leave the site as it is (i.e. Travis Perkins and Wickes) and market the office space above Wickes' for businesses. If a development has to go ahead a school, GP and some green space should be implemented.

I hope you take my comments onboard.

Yours faithfully,

Matthew